AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended)   In a Set-Top Box configured with a modem and a Main Circuit Board where the Main Circuit Board is connected to the modem via an interconnection, a method of enabling the Main Circuit Board to determine the IP address of the modem, comprising:

at the modem:

periodically broadcasting a Discovery Packet over the interconnection from the modem to the Main Circuit Board, by addressing the Discovery Packet to a broadcast address that can be received by the Main Circuit Board a broadcast address, the Discovery Packet comprising at least the IP address of the modem in order to permit the Main Circuit Board to learn the modem's IP address; and

at the Main Circuit Board:

monitoring the interconnection for receipt of broadcast Discovery Packets addressed to the broadcast address;

receiving the broadcast Discovery Packet addressed to the broadcast address at the Main Circuit Board from the modem over the interconnection; and

ascertaining the IP address of the modem from the broadcast Discovery Packet.

2. (Original)   The method according to claim 1, wherein the Discovery Packet further comprises an authentication code, and wherein the Main Circuit Board, upon receiving the Discovery Packet inspects the authentication code to assure that the IP address in the Discovery Packet originated at the modem.

3. (Original)   The method according to claim 2, wherein the authentication code comprises a multiple character ascii character string.

4. (Original)   The method according to claim 3, wherein the authentication code is encrypted.

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5. (Original)   The method according to claim 2, wherein the authentication code comprises a 10 character ascii character string.

6. (Original)   The method according to claim 5, wherein the authentication code is encrypted.

7. (Original)   The method according to claim 1, wherein the Discovery Packet further comprises a status code indicative of a running status of the modem.

8. (Original)   The method according to claim 7, wherein the status code is encrypted.

9. (Original)   The method according to claim 7, wherein the status code comprises a four byte integer code representing the running status of the modem.

10. (Original) The method according to claim 9, wherein the status code is encrypted.

11. (Original) The method according to claim 7, further comprising displaying a status of the modem on a display connected to the Main Circuit Board.

12. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the Discovery Packet is transmitted approximately every 30 seconds.

13. (Currently Amended)   The method according to claim 1, wherein the modem comprises wherein the modem comprises one of a Cable Modem, a DSL modem and a Satellite modem a Cable Modem.

14. (Currently Amended)   The method according to claim 1, wherein the modem comprises a DSL modem further includes a processor that controls functions of the modem and wherein the processor is a device separate from any processor device residing on the Main Circuit Board.

15. (Currently Amended)   The method according to claim 1, wherein the <u>Discovery Packet is communicated using User Datagram Protocol</u> ~~modem comprises a satellite modem~~.

16. (Currently Amended)   The method according to claim 2, further comprising:
        at a network device:
periodically broadcasting a Discovery Packet <u>over an interconnection</u> from the network device to <u>the Main Circuit Board, by addressing the Discovery Packet to the broadcast address</u> ~~a broadcast address~~, the Discovery Packet comprising at least the IP address of the network device and a signature of the network device; and
        at the Main Circuit Board:
<u>monitoring the interconnection for broadcast Discovery Packets addressed to the broadcast address;</u>
receiving the broadcast Discovery Packet <u>addressed to the Main Circuit Board</u> from the network device ; and
ascertaining the IP address of the network device from the broadcast Discovery Packet after authenticating the network device from the network device's signature.

17. (Currently Amended)   A Set-Top Box, comprising:
        a modem;
        a Main Circuit Board interconnected to the modem via an interconnection;
        means, residing within said modem, for periodically transmitting a Discovery Packet from said modem to <u>the Main Circuit Board by addressing the Discovery Packet to a broadcast address monitored by a programmed processor residing on</u> said Main Circuit Board <u>via the interconnection;</u> and
        wherein the Discovery Packet comprises at least an IP address of the modem <u>in order to permit the Main Circuit Board to learn the modem's IP address</u>.

18. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 17, wherein the Discovery Packet further comprises an authentication code, and wherein the Main Circuit Board, upon receiving the

Discovery Packet inspects the authentication code to assure that the IP address in the Discovery Packet originated at the modem.

19. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 18, wherein the authentication code comprises a multiple character ascii character string.

20. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 19, wherein the authentication code is encrypted.

21. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 18, wherein the authentication code comprises a ten character ascii character string.

22. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 21, wherein the authentication code is encrypted.

23. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 17, wherein the Discovery Packet further comprises a status code indicative of a running status of the modem.

24. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 23, wherein the status code is encrypted.

25. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 23, wherein the status code comprises a multiple byte integer code representing the running status of the modem.

26. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 23, wherein the status code comprises a four byte integer code representing the running status of the modem.

27. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 17, wherein the Discovery Packet is transmitted approximately every 30 seconds.

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28. (Currently Amended)   The apparatus according to claim 17, wherein the modem comprises one of a Cable Modem, a DSL modem and a Satellite modem.

29. (Currently Amended)   The apparatus according to claim 17, wherein the modem ~~comprises a DSL modem~~ further includes a processor that controls functions of the modem and wherein the processor is a device separate from the programmed processor residing on the Main Circuit Board.

30. (Currently Amended)   The apparatus according to claim 17, wherein the interconnection comprises one of a universal serial bus (USB) interconnection, an Ethernet interconnection and a PCI bus interconnection ~~modem comprises a satellite modem~~.

31. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 17, further comprising a display coupled to the Main Circuit Board.

32. (Currently Amended)   The apparatus according to claim 17, wherein the means for periodically transmitting a Discovery Packet comprises a programmed processor forming a part of the modem, and which is distinct from any programmed processor residing on the Main Circuit Board.

33. (Currently Amended)   The apparatus according to claim 18, further comprising:
        a network device interconnected with the Main Circuit Board using an interconnection;
        means, residing within said network device for periodically transmitting a Discovery Packet from said network device to said Main Circuit Board over said interconnection by addressing the Discovery Packet to a broadcast address monitored by the Main Circuit Board; and
        wherein the Discovery Packet comprises at least an IP address of the network device and a signature, wherein the Main Circuit Board distinguishes between the modem and the network device by the signature.

34. (Currently Amended)   A Set-Top Box, comprising:

a modem;

a Main Circuit Board <u>having a first processor and</u> interconnected to the modem via an interconnection, <u>wherein the Main Circuit Board monitors the interconnection for packets addressed to a broadcast address</u>;

a <u>second</u> programmed processor, residing within said modem, for transmitting a Discovery Packet from said modem to <u>the broadcast address monitored by</u> said Main Circuit Board <u>via said interconnection</u> at intervals of approximately 30 seconds;

wherein the Discovery Packet comprises an IP address of the modem, and an encrypted ten character ascii authentication code, and wherein the Main Circuit Board, upon receiving the Discovery Packet inspects the authentication code to assure that the IP address in the Discovery Packet originated at the modem;

and wherein the Discovery Packet further comprises a four byte integer status code indicative of a running status of the modem; and

a display, coupled to the Main Circuit Board, displaying the status of the modem <u>determined by the Main Circuit Board by reading the four byte integer status code of the Discovery Packet</u>.

35. (Currently Amended)   The apparatus according to claim 34, wherein the modem comprises <u>one of</u> a Cable Modem<u>, a DSL modem and a satellite modem</u>.

36. (Currently Amended)   The apparatus according to claim 34, wherein the <u>Discovery Packet uses User Datagram Protocol</u> ~~modem comprises a DSL modem~~.

37. (Currently Amended)   The apparatus according to claim 34, wherein the <u>interconnection comprises one of a universal serial bus (USB) interconnection, an Ethernet interconnection and a PCI bus interconnection</u> ~~modem comprises a satellite modem~~.

38.-57. (Withdrawn)

58. (Currently Amended)   A Set-Top Box, comprising:

a managed component;

a Main Circuit Board interconnected to the managed component via an interconnection;

a Main Circuit Board interconnected to the modem via an interconnection;

means, residing within said managed component, for periodically transmitting a Discovery Packet from said managed component to the Main Circuit Board by addressing the Discovery Packet to a broadcast address monitored by said Main Circuit Board via the interconnection; and

wherein the Discovery Packet comprises at least an IP address of the ~~modem~~ managed component in order to permit the Main Circuit Board to learn the managed component's IP address.

59. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 58, wherein the Discovery Packet further comprises an authentication code, and wherein the Main Circuit Board, upon receiving the Discovery Packet inspects the authentication code to assure that the IP address in the Discovery Packet originated at the managed component.

60. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 59, wherein the authentication code comprises a multiple character ascii character string.

61. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 59, wherein the authentication code is encrypted.

62. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 59, wherein the authentication code comprises a ten character ascii character string.

63. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 62, wherein the authentication code is encrypted.

64. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 58, wherein the Discovery Packet further comprises a status code indicative of a running status of the managed component.

65. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 64, wherein the status code is encrypted.

66. (Currently Amended)   A Set-Top Box, comprising:

first and second managed components;

a Main Circuit Board interconnected to the first and second managed components via an interconnection;

means, residing within each of said first and second managed components, for periodically transmitting a Discovery Packet from each said managed component to said Main Circuit Board by addressing the Discovery Packet to a broadcast address monitored by said Main Circuit Board via the interconnection; and

wherein the Discovery Packet comprises at least an IP address of the managed component from which it was transmitted in order to permit the Main Circuit Board to learn each managed component's IP address.

67. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 66, wherein the Discovery Packet further comprises an authentication code, and wherein the Main Circuit Board, upon receiving the Discovery Packet inspects the authentication code to determine which of the first and second managed components that the IP address in the Discovery Packet corresponds to.

68. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 67, wherein the authentication code comprises a multiple character ascii character string.

69. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 67, wherein the authentication code is encrypted.

70. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 69, wherein the Discovery Packet further comprises a status code indicative of a running status of the managed component transmitting the discovery packet.

71. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 70, wherein the status code is encrypted.

72. (New) The apparatus according to claim 66, wherein the Discovery Packet uses User Datagram Protocol.

73. (New) The apparatus according to claim 66, wherein the interconnection comprises one of a universal serial bus (USB) interconnection, an Ethernet interconnection and a PCI bus interconnection.

74. (New) The apparatus according to claim 58, wherein the Discovery Packet uses User Datagram Protocol.

75. (New) The apparatus according to claim 58, wherein the interconnection comprises one of a universal serial bus (USB) interconnection, an Ethernet interconnection and a PCI bus interconnection.

76. (New) In a Set-Top Box, a method comprising:

    providing a modem having a first internal programmed processor;

    providing a Main Circuit Board having a second programmed processor, said first and second programmed processors being separate physical devices;

    the modem being connected to the Main Circuit Board via an interface,

    at the modem:

periodically broadcasting a Discovery Packet from the modem to the Main Circuit Board over the interface, wherein the Discovery Packet is addressed to a broadcast address that can be received by the Main Circuit Board, the Discovery Packet comprising at least the IP address of the modem in order to permit the Main Circuit Board to learn the modem's IP address; and

at the Main Circuit Board:

monitoring the interface for receipt of broadcast Discovery Packets addressed to the broadcast address;

receiving the broadcast Discovery Packet addressed to the broadcast address at the Main Circuit Board from the modem over the interface; and

ascertaining the IP address of the modem from the broadcast Discovery Packet.

77. (New)   The method according to claim 76, wherein the Discovery Packet further comprises an authentication code, and wherein the Main Circuit Board, upon receiving the Discovery Packet inspects the authentication code to assure that the IP address in the Discovery Packet originated at the modem.

78. (New)   The method according to claim 77, wherein the authentication code comprises a multiple character ascii character string.

79. (New)   The method according to claim 77, wherein the authentication code is encrypted.

80. (New)   The method according to claim 77, wherein the authentication code comprises a 10 character ascii character string.

81. (New)   The method according to claim 80, wherein the authentication code is encrypted.

82. (New)   The method according to claim 80, wherein the Discovery Packet further comprises a status code indicative of a running status of the modem.

83. (New)   The method according to claim 82, wherein the status code is encrypted.

84. (New)   The method according to claim 82, wherein the status code comprises a four byte integer code representing the running status of the modem.

85. (New)   The method according to claim 84, wherein the status code is encrypted.

86. (New)   The method according to claim 82, further comprising displaying a status of the modem on a display connected to the Main Circuit Board.

87. (New)   The method according to claim 76, wherein the Discovery Packet is transmitted approximately every 30 seconds.

88. (New)   The method according to claim 76, wherein the modem comprises wherein the modem comprises one of a Cable Modem, a DSL modem and a Satellite modem.

89. (New)   The method according to claim 76, wherein the Discovery Packet is communicated using User Datagram Protocol.

90. (New)   A Set-Top Box, comprising:
    a modem;
    a Main Circuit Board interconnected to the modem via an interconnection;
    means, residing within said modem, for periodically transmitting a Discovery Packet from said modem to said Main Circuit Board, wherein the means for periodically transmitting a Discovery Packet comprises a programmed processor; and
    wherein the Discovery Packet comprises at least an IP address of the modem.

91. (New)   A Set-Top Box, comprising:
    a modem;

a Main Circuit Board interconnected to the modem via an interconnection;

a programmed processor, residing within said modem, for transmitting a Discovery Packet from said modem to said Main Circuit Board at intervals of approximately 30 seconds;

wherein the Discovery Packet comprises an IP address of the modem, and an encrypted ten character ascii authentication code, and wherein the Main Circuit Board, upon receiving the Discovery Packet inspects the authentication code to assure that the IP address in the Discovery Packet originated at the modem;

and wherein the Discovery Packet further comprises a four byte integer status code indicative of a running status of the modem; and

a display, coupled to the Main Circuit Board, displaying the status of the modem.